

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A dental matrix retainer used as an aid when filling two-surface cavities in the molars, with a matrix holder (3) and a device for tensioning a matrix band (2) placed in the form of a loop (22) around the tooth which is to be treated, the matrix holder (3) being composed of a housing (5) with a circular opening (8), and of a spindle-like inner body (9) which can turn in this opening (8) and which is provided with a gap (12), said gap (12) being able to be aligned with a slit (10) in the wall of the housing (5) such that the superposed ends of the matrix band (2) can be inserted into this slit (10) and into the gap (12) aligned therewith and can be tensioned on the tooth by turning the inner body (9), characterized in that a toothed wheel (13, 27) is provided on the upper end of the spindle inner body (9) protruding from the circular opening (8) of the housing (5), said toothed wheel (13, 27) being able to be engaged immediately and to contact directly with a drive device (4) which has a laterally outwardly extended drive shaft (16).
2. (currently amended) The matrix retainer as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the toothed wheel at the upper end of the spindle inner body (9) is a crown wheel (13) which can be brought into engagement with a drive pinion (17) belonging to the drive device (4), which drive pinion (17) can be turned via the laterally outwardly extended drive shaft (16).

3. (currently amended) The matrix retainer as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized~~ characterized in that the drive device (4) is composed of the drive shaft (16) and of the drive pinion (17) arranged at one end thereof.

4. (currently amended) The matrix retainer as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the drive ~~[[pinio]]~~ pinion (17) is slightly beveled at its front face.

5. (original) The matrix retainer as claimed, in claim 1, characterized in that the drive shaft (16) can be turned inside a tubular sleeve (29) with the aid of a rotary knob (19) provided at its end remote from the drive pinion (17), from which sleeve (29) a support fork (21) protrudes forward underneath the drive pinion (17) and can slide under an edge (7) protruding laterally from the upper end of the housing (5).

6. (currently amended) ~~[[The]] A matrix retainer as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that~~

used as an aid when filling two-surface cavities in the molars, with a matrix holder (3) and a device for tensioning a matrix band (2) placed in the form of a loop (22) around the tooth which is to be treated, the matrix holder (3) being composed of a housing (5) with a circular opening (8), and of a spindle-like inner body (9) which can turn in this opening (8) and which is provided with a gap (12), said gap (12) being able to be aligned with a slit (10) in the wall of the housing (5) such that the superposed ends of the matrix band (2)

can be inserted into this slit (10) and into the gap (12) aligned therewith and can be tensioned on the tooth by turning the inner body (9), characterized in that a toothed wheel (13, 27) is provided on the upper end of the inner body (9) protruding from the circular opening (8) of the housing (5), said toothed wheel (13, 27) being able to be engaged with a drive device (4) which has a laterally outwardly extended drive shaft (16), wherein

the drive device (4) is composed of a drive worm (26) which engages with the toothed wheel (27) of the spindle (9) and which can be turned via a laterally outwardly extended drive shaft (16).

7. (currently amended) The matrix retainer as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the matrix ~~retainer~~ retainer is composed of two parts and comprises a matrix holder (3) and a separate drive device (4) attachable from a side to the matrix holder (3) and again disengageable from the matrix holder (3), wherein the drive device (4) includes a laterally outwardly extended drive shaft (16) and a drive pinion (17) disposed at an end of this drive shaft (16), wherein the drive pinion (17) can be engaged and disengaged with ~~[[the]]~~ a crown wheel (13) of the spindle inner body (9), and wherein the crown wheel (13) of the spindle (9) upwardly protrudes from the housing (5) of the matrix holder (3).